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**CIVIL WAR THREAT IN ITALY**

**Communist Leader Defies The Premier  
Spreading Wave Of  
Disturbances**

Rome, Nov. 18.  
 Bitter Leftist reaction to Premier Alcide de Gasperi's speech against the political violence sweeping Italy today brought a veiled threat of revolution from the Communist boss, Palmiro Togliatti, and denunciation of the Government programme as a "struggle to reconquer the world for Christ."

There was a slight diminution in violence which continued through the 14th day of what the Communist Party labelled openly as "the coalition of popular groups everywhere against the danger of a Fascist rebirth."

But general strikes struck Sardinia and the Puglia region, scene of the bloodiest outbreak of the violence campaign, where columns of motorized police and Carabinieri patrolled the entire province.

The Communist organ reported de Gasperi's speech with the headline: "Austro-American de Gasperi resumes curses of Goebbels" and Left Wing Socialists called it a "declaration of counter-revolutionary war."

**"The Master Road"**  
 Togliatti spoke again last night to a secret meeting of the Milan Communist Party at

**THE GEN.  
FROM MOSCOW**

London, Nov. 18.  
 Radio Moscow predicted today that the United Nations would collapse like the old League of Nations. It "established a system whereby decisions are taken on a majority voting."

The broadcast said solution of the present differences in the United Nations depends not on the majority vote principle but on the "real relation of the forces which exist in the international arena."—United Press.

ter de Gasperi had addressed a meeting in Naples. The Communist Party organ reported Togliatti had warned against the danger of "abstract investigations into future prospects deriving from the master road of Marxism."

The Moscow-trained leader of the greatest Communist Party outside Russia told the Milan party (this newspaper said) that the question could be put in the following terms: "If we win the elections our prospects will be pacific, otherwise we will evidently pass to revolutionary action."

"This method of putting the question is absolutely abstract in all senses and does not take into consideration the general development of our action."

**Disturbances**  
 In the Puglia region, the towns of Andria, Minervino, Barletta and Trani are under heavy police guard. Police at road blocks maintain checks on all persons entering and leaving towns.

**Disastrous Fire  
In Dept. Store**

Wellington, N.Z., Nov. 18.  
 At least 20 persons perished today when Ballantyne's Ltd., a department store in Christchurch, was gutted by fire at the height of the shopping rush hour. Assistants and customers were trapped on the upper floors of the four-storey store which is Christchurch's biggest and most exclusive shop.

**ON OTHER PAGES**  
 Page two R.A.F. Sergeant Found Guilty of Larceny of Lorry.  
 Page four No Secrets to Conceal.  
 Page five President Proposes Price Control on Some Items.  
 Page eight Eve of the Royal Wedding.  
 Page nine Elizabeth's Presents.  
 Page twelve World and Local Sports News.

**CAUSTIC  
COMMENT**

New York, Nov. 18.  
 The "N.Y. Herald Tribune", commenting editorially on reports of Chinese criticism of Secretary of State Marshall's recommended aid to China, says: "What stands in the way of large-scale aid to Nanking is the prospect that most of what is given is likely to be wasted by incompetent officials or misused by corrupt officials."—Associated Press.

**Tanker In  
No Danger  
At Present**

H.M.S. "Black Swan" and the tanker "Vosella" were reported late last night to have reached the Chinese tanker "Yung Lai" (YU-101) at 5:30 p.m. The "Yung Lai", which went aground on Monday at North Island, (about 300 miles north-east of Hong Kong) and which sent out distress signals asking for assistance, is said to be in no immediate danger.

The only damage to the "Yung Lai" is confined to the bow, resulting in the No. 1 hold taking water.

**Threat To Life  
Of Boy-King?**

Zurich, Nov. 18.  
 King Phumiphon of Siam learned by radio last night that a man has been reported to be en route from Bangkok to murder him. The schoolboy King said today that he had not been officially informed by the Swiss authorities of the plot against his life but one of his secretaries said cantonal police are now guarding the King's villa here.

On the other hand, the police deny that precautions have been taken and disclaim any knowledge of the matter. A spokesman for the King said today that the police telephoned a warning to the King last night.

Members of the King's entourage ridiculed the story and said the Swiss Government had actually received the would-be assassin last year without being aware of his alleged intent.

They said the reputed assassin was actually Prince Panshi, who was expected to arrive in Geneva last night where the Prince did not arrive on schedule, however, and has not appeared yet.—United Press.

**Over A Cliff?**  
 Singapore, Nov. 18.  
 The plot to kill the 20-year-old King—alleged by the Bangkok City Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Luang Kach Gongnam, yesterday—was "to push him

over a cliff and make it appear an accident," according to the Bangkok correspondent of the "Strait Times".

He wrote that the Siamese command had warned the King that the would-be assassin was on the way to Lausanne, where the King who is fond of skiing, is living.—Reuter.

Her warning was delivered directly to Hector McNeill of the United Kingdom, who sat across the conference room from her, as the United Nations Political Committee nears the end of its debate on India's complaint of alleged South African discrimination against the Indians in the Union.

**Consequences**  
 Mrs. Pandit said, "Surely Mr. McNeill realizes that further deterioration of our relations with South Africa may have most significant consequences, not only on our relations with the British Commonwealth but in a much wider field."

Mrs. Pandit charged that "economic and residential segregation of persons of Indian origin in South Africa is a humiliation to India and indeed to the whole of Asia."

**"Victim Of  
Blackmail"  
By The U.S.**

Milan, Nov. 17.  
 Describing the situation in Italy as "exceptionally grave," Signor Palmiro Togliatti, the Italian Communist Party leader, declared here that the Italian Government had been the victim of "blackmail" by the United States State Department.

Signor Togliatti was addressing the Congress of the Milan Communist Federation. He said that the recent developments in Italy were not isolated facts but signs of the deep changes which had taken place in the nation's social structure.

Responsibility for the situation fell on the capitalists and on the present Government headed by Signor Alcide de Gasperi which was favouring them, he added.

The Government's mistake, Signor Togliatti said, was that it had not known how to disengage Italy from the United States aid policy, thus becoming a victim of "blackmail" by the United States State Department.

Economic expansion by the United States was choking free economic intercourse between nations, he said.

The workers of Italy would prevent Fascism from staging a comeback, Signor Togliatti declared.

The conciliatory attitude of the Government, he declared, towards United States aid would inevitably collide with the policy of the Soviet Union, which entered the war to support national independence.—Reuter.

**Another Post  
For Soong**

Nanking, Nov. 18.  
 The Executive Yuan today appointed Dr. T. V. Soong as Commander of the Military Control Zone in Kwangtung. Dr. Soong is Governor of Kwangtung and concurrently Director of the President's Canton Headquarters.—Central News.

**Mrs. Pandit Warns  
Britain**

Lake Success, Nov. 17.  
 Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit of India today warned Britain that "further deterioration in our relations with South Africa" might cause India to break away from the Commonwealth and have other implications even wider than those affecting the British community of nations.

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**"No Room"**  
 Mrs. Pandit said that Indian leaders had long held the view that "so long as Indians are regarded as an inferior race inside the British Commonwealth there is really no room in it for a self-respecting India."—United Press.

**"Russia  
Preparing  
For War"**

Washington, Nov. 18.  
 Representative Everett M. Dirksen today declared that Russia was "feverishly preparing for war."

The Illinois Republican said the "cold war" between the United States and Russia could easily lead to a shooting one unless the United States bolstered Germany against the spread of Communism.

The Dirksen speech said Germany was the key to Europe and must not be abandoned to Russia. He said the entire Continent was already a "steady and unrelenting business of preparing for war goes steadily forward in the Soviet Union." He added that Russia was producing tanks, assault missiles and tactical and jet planes at "an alarming rate."

He said many quarters, one secured an even money wager that war is in the offing, he said. Rep. Dirksen, who is chairman of the special joint Congressional Armed Services Appropriations Committee which recently toured Europe, said that the United States could choose to abandon Europe, and particularly Germany, to the Soviet Union, but "if we do let's remember we are playing for keeps."

He said in that case it would mean that "henceforth Stalin will write the ticket and we shall do business with European countries on his basis." He said "his would imperil Western civilization and mean regimentation for us."—United Press.

**ALEX STRIKE**

Alexandria, Nov. 17.  
 The movement of cotton in Alexandria harbour was paralysed today when 3,000 cotton porters went on strike demanding a 100 per cent. cost of living allowance instead of the present 50 per cent.—Reuter.

**MENTOUKUO  
MINES DECISION**

Nanking, Nov. 18.  
 A spokesman of the Executive Yuan announced today that the Mentoukuo coal mines, among the largest in North China, will be returned in full to their rightful owners with the exception of extra machinery and equipment installed by the Japanese during the occupation.

The Mentoukuo mines, located some 20 kilometres west of the Marco Polo Bridge—where the clash in 1937 led to Sino-Japanese hostilities—and operated under Sino-British management, were occupied by the Japanese Army shortly after Pearl Harbour. They were taken over by the Chinese Government after the Japanese surrender.

The spokesman said that the Executive Yuan had decided upon this step in view of the fact that sufficient proof had been produced by the British representative, Mr. William McBaln, to show that the Japanese had forcibly occupied the mines without compensation.

Regarding the Chinese share in the mining company, the spokesman said that documents showed that the Chinese representative, Mr. Chow Feng-chang, did not receive dividends nor contribute further capital to the mines during the Japanese occupation.

Letters have been published in Tientsin and Peking newspapers objecting to any Government decision to return the mines to their rightful owners, the spokesman added, but the Executive Yuan has fully considered all facts of the case and deemed it necessary to uphold the decision as announced.—Reuter-AAP.

**Palestine Dementi**

Jerusalem, Nov. 18.  
 A spokesman for the Palestine Government today denied that British troops were being withdrawn from the Holy Land and said only "routine" movements were being carried out.

He added that the first phase of eventual evacuation of the British forces had been formulated but had not yet been put into operation. He did not know when actual debarkation would begin.

Home troops were departing from Haifa, the spokesman asserted, but said these were entirely unconnected with evacuation from the Holy Land.—United Press.

**Typhoons  
"Flora" And  
"Gladys"**

Tokyo, Nov. 18.  
 Typhoon "Flora" is now centred at Daito Shima after doing "superficial" damage while passing over Okinawa today, the 43rd Weather Wing announces.

Meanwhile, typhoon "Gladys" centred 180 miles south-east of Yap, is continuing to move west-north-west at 10 m.p.h.—United Press.

**American  
'Meddling'  
In China**

MOSCOW, NOV. 17.  
 UNITED STATES RELIEF FOR CHINA UNDER THE \$300,000,000 AID PROGRAMME IS AN "AGREEMENT FOR AMERICAN MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REACTIONARIES IN THE CHINESE PEOPLE," THE INFLUENTIAL SOVIET WEEKLY "NEW TIMES" DECLARED TODAY.

"The writer declared: 'The untold puritanical cant, with which the treaty is saturated, and in which the American imperialists are such past masters, does not alter the essence of the case: and the essence is that the Nanking treaty represents a further extension of American interference in China's domestic affairs.'"

The article said the programme did not imply "that the position of American imperialism has been strengthened." "On the contrary it indirectly confirms that the policy of the American Government has failed, and the American expansionists—like their agents in the Chinese reactionary camp—have nothing to show for their aid."—Reuter.

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**Medal For  
Gen. Chiang**

Nanking, Nov. 18.  
 The French Ambassador, M. Jacques Meyer, today presented Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek with the Medalle Militaire, the highest French military distinction, in the name of the President of France in a brief ceremony at the Presidential home.

M. Meyer said the French Government was recognising Chiang's leadership in the Chinese war against "imperialistic totalitarianism."—Associated Press.

**Heavy Snowfalls  
Over Europe**

London, Nov. 18.  
 Snow today brought Northern Europe to the official end of one of the longest and driest summers on record and predictions were that bitter weather would last for a couple of days at least.

Sweden and Ireland were hardest hit by the cold wave. Stockholm reported a foot and a half of snow in Northern Sweden and a thin white blanket over the southern part of the country. Temperatures ranged from eight to 15 degrees below zero. Centigrade.

Heavy snowfalls were reported from several districts in Ireland, but Irish homes were reported to be warmed by American coal for the first time in five years.

Finland reported about five inches of snow in the north and one inch at Helsinki. Cold fog blanketed the southern half of the country and temperature hovered above zero Centigrade. Prague reported clear, sunny weather, but light snow was falling 200 kilometres east and medium snowfalls were reported from high Tatra. Light snow showers were falling in Bremen, Stuttgart, Frankfurt,

**Martial Law Lifted  
In Mukden**

**Fighting Slackens On  
Approach Of Winter**

Nanking, Nov. 18.  
 Nationalist forces are reported to be making a two-pointed drive against Communist concentrations near Hsuehchow, according to Government sources in Nanking this morning. One column, in a rapid drive through Communist territory, has linked up at Chinanchi, 18 miles northwest of Hsuehchow, with another column pushing southward from Fenghsin.

This city was recaptured by the Nationalists a few days ago after a heavy battle, during which the Nationalists reported the Communists had suffered heavy losses. Fighting in other areas has been slackened with the spread of winter weather on most war fronts.

From Mukden, reports state that the Government has lifted the martial law and curfew clamped on the city four or five days ago. Another despatch reports the ending of an important military conference of Nationalist top-ranking generals in Peiping.—Reuter-AAP.

**Big Four  
Talks On  
Germany**

LONDON, NOV. 17.  
 SOVIET RUSSIA TODAY OPPOSED INCLUSION OF THE AMERICAN-PROPOSED FOUR-POWER PACT FOR GERMANY'S DISARMAMENT AND DEMILITARIZATION IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTHCOMING BIG FOUR MEETING AS THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DEPUTIES MET TODAY.

The United States, United Kingdom and France presented an agreed text for inclusion in the Big Four agenda, but Russia's A. Smirnov objected and would only agree to its inclusion in the deputies' report to their principals.

Mr. Smirnov argued that the Big Four Foreign Ministers should themselves decide on this issue.

Earlier, the deputies agreed that the Big Four agenda should include four points: the form and scope of the provisional political organization of Germany, the report on the Austrian Treaty Commission, economic principles relating to Germany, procedure for the preparation of peace treaties.

They again failed, however, to reach agreement on the order in which these links should be tackled by the Foreign Ministers.—United Press.

**Developments**  
 Other developments in the civil war are:—Mukden—Martial law here has been lifted.

Changchun—Chung Tung kuo, returning to Mukden from an inspection tour of Changchun, said the full is expected to continue for weeks.

Hsuehchow—The Government after beating back the Communist probing the outer defences of Hsuehchow, have advanced westwards to reopen the rail contact with Kai-feng. The Nationalists are said to have recaptured all stations between Hsuehchow and Tangshan, the latter being still in their hands. Government forces moving south from western Shantung have linked up with the Hsuehchow units.

Yucheng—The Communist siege of this important railway town in southern Shansi has been lifted with the arrival of Government reinforcements from the north bank of the Yellow River.—United Press.

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**The Weather**

At 1000 hrs. GMT, 15 p.m. I.L.K. Summary:—Time: yesterday, the typhoon was centred 500 miles S of Kyushu moving NE at 10 knts. Another typhoon has formed near Yap. A depression of 12 knts. is moving NE and the intense anticyclone now centred over the Gulf of Peshi dominates East Asia. Today's Forecast:—NE winds, moderate showers, fresh or strong offshore; fair intervals, chilly offshore.